

Amendments to the Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The stud of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10, wherein said alignment slot comprises a pair of elongated alignment slots.

10. (currently amended) A metal stud adapted for constructing a metal wall frame between a pair of channel members, comprising:

a longitudinally-extending central column portion having a pair of opposite end portions;

a pair of side walls formed on opposite sides of said central column portion;

a first retainer;

and at least one alignment slot formed in said stud for receiving the first retainer formed on one of said channel members;

~~The stud of claim 8,~~ wherein said alignment slot is formed in at least one of said end portions of said central column portion.

11. (currently amended) The stud of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10, further comprising an extender longitudinally slidably mounted within said stud.

12. (original) The stud of claim 11, wherein said extender is formed with a push hole for pushing and sliding said extender within said stud.

13. (currently amended) The stud of claim 11, further comprising a second retainer formed on one of said channel members,

wherein said first retainer ~~member~~ has at least one slot formed therein for receiving ~~[[a]]~~ the second retainer ~~formed on one of said channel members.~~

14. (currently amended) The stud of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10, further comprising an indented portion formed in at least one of said side walls for receiving a spacer bar.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member; and

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops;

~~The system of claim 15,~~ wherein said stops are formed as upstanding tabs struck from said channel member.

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17. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding
from said floor portion;
a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;
a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel
member;
a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said
stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said
retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

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~~The system of claim 15, further comprising~~ a series of longitudinally spaced
crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said ~~stud~~ studs on said
channel member.

18. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 15~~ 17, further comprising a series of
~~metal studs interconnected to said channel member and~~ further comprising a series of
~~spacer bar bars, each said spacer bar~~ interconnecting adjacent ones ~~each~~ of said studs.

19. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:
a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding
from said floor portion;
a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

~~The system of claim 18,~~ wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

20. (currently amended) A metal wall frame system, comprising:

a metal channel member having a floor portion and a pair of side walls upstanding from said floor portion;

a series of stops formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of retainer members formed at predetermined intervals along said channel member;

a series of metal studs interconnected to said channel member, wherein each said stud has at least one alignment slot formed therein, receives a respective one of said retainer members, and is butted against a respective one of said stops; and

a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs;

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~~The system of claim 18, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer ~~bar~~ bars.~~

21. (new) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of longitudinally spaced crimp portions crimped inwardly from said side walls and locking said studs on said channel member.

22. (new) The system of claim 16, further comprising a series of spacer bars, each said spacer bar interconnecting adjacent ones of said studs.

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23. (new) The system of claim 22, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

24. (new) The system of claim 22, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

25. (new) The system of claim 18, wherein each of said studs comprises a socket and wherein each said spacer bar comprises a series of projections respectively extending into each of said sockets.

26. (new) The system of claim 18, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.

27. (new) The system of claim 19, wherein each said stud comprises a side wall
having a recessed portion receiving a respective one of said spacer bars.
